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'RISING CRIME RATES IN MONTANA' TO BE DISCUSSED
FRIDAY, FEB. 20, AT UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MISSOULA--

"Rising Crime Rates in Montana" will be the topic of a panel discussion conducted by the Corrections Task Force of the Montana Justice Project Friday, Feb. 20, at the University of Montana.

The panel discussion, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday in rooms F-G-H of the University Center (UC), is among a number of sessions scheduled during ^athree-day meeting of the Corrections Task Force of the Montana Justice Project. The meeting continues through Saturday in the UC. All of the sessions, including the panel discussion, are open to the public without charge.

Panelists Friday night will include Ted V. Lechner, task force chairman and chief juvenile probation officer, Billings; Joe Yellow Robe, a task force member from Havre; District Court Judge Gordon R. Bennett, Helena, and Roland E. McCauley, administrator of the Division of Corrections, State Department of Institutions, Helena. Panel moderator will be Dr. Richard D. Vandiver, assistant professor of sociology at UM.

The Corrections Task Force consists of corrections experts in adult and juvenile probation, parole and institutions and criminal justice people from Montana. The task force is considering the final form of standards for rights of offenders, major institutions, women in institutions and other matters concerning corrections during the Missoula sessions.

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Meetings on Friday will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the UC. Vandiver will speak on "Juvenile Status Offenders" and "Rights of Offenders" during the morning session. The afternoon session will begin at 1 p.m. Friday with Patricia Reuss, Helena, a member of the task force, speaking on "Women in Correctional Facilities." Reuss also is a member of the Women's Political Caucus. Also on Friday, Judge Bennett will discuss "Sentencing," and Patrick E. Melby, deputy director of planning in Gov. Thomas L. Judge's office, will speak on "Pretrial Release and Detention."

Saturday's program will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the UC. Charles McCarthy, Helena, chief of child and youth development in the State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, and McCauley, will speak on "Diversion" and "Manpower," respectively, during the morning program. The afternoon session on Saturday, which begins at 1 p.m., will feature Jack Williams, Helena police chief, who will discuss "Local Adult Institutions."

"The final report on our meetings on standards for corrections in Montana will come out in March of this year in Helena," Vandiver said.

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